

**Visels Pharmacy  
714 Dixwell Ave  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-562-6878**

March 11, 2014

**Re: Connecticut General Assembly; Raised Bill No. 5333: An Act Concerning The Return of Outdated Drugs From Pharmacies to Wholesalers, Manufacturers and Distributors**

Dear Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Ranking Members and Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Edmund J. Funaro, Jr., Director of Visels Pharmacy, New Haven, CT, a family owned and operated independent, community retail pharmacy since 1913. I have been a licensed pharmacist for 28 years.

Visels Pharmacy utilizes the services of an outside vendor, Return Solutions, to process our outdated drugs. Outsourcing this procedure allows us to process and monitor our outdated drug returns more efficiently in part due to varying manufacturer return policies.

While the vast majority of pharmaceutical manufacturers take back all of their expired medications within 6 months of expiration, some will only take back unopened packages and others will not take back any outdated product.

Visels Pharmacy is committed to providing medications and services to our patients, some whom may require treatment with newer or less commonly prescribed medications, in quantities which will leave us with partial, opened bottles in our pharmacy inventory, in some cases remaining there until expiration.

While manufacturers want (and market) us to carry their products and have them available for patients, it is inexcusable that the same manufacturer will not issue credit for expired product, sealed or unsealed.

When one considers the cost for a pharmacy to purchase a stock 100 count bottle, dispense a partial quantity and inventory the balance, there is no financial gain to the pharmacy, in fact, it is a net loss.

Manufacturers produce and market specific drugs which are prescribed by medical practitioners for specific therapeutic treatments, in many cases the sole available therapy. A Pharmacy's responsibility to their patient's care sometimes requires them to purchase these drugs without considering these unreasonable terms.

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One manufacturer's statement that they have reduced the price of their products by 1% to make up for their refusal to issue credit for expired medications, in no way does anything to offset the loss incurred by the pharmacy. The pharmacy still must purchase, inventory and destroy expired medications with no consideration for the actual dollar amount impacted.

A more appropriate resolution would be for manufacturers to provide unit of use packaging and to accept returns of expired medications in both sealed and unsealed packages. The refusal of a manufacturer to accept returns of expired medications has a negative impact on our independent, community pharmacy and amongst the many other issues affecting pharmacies, impairs our ability to remain financially viable.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Edmund J. Funaro, Jr., R.Ph., MBA  
Director  
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